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**LEEK RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1954

January 1956



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LEEK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1954

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR R. G. GRINDON

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MAJOR T. HARVEY

Members:

Councillor	Rev. W. T. D. Attoe	Councillor	C. R. Hewlett
"	J. Bennison	"	H. Mear
"	W. V. Bradbury	"	L. Morrall
"	A. Buckley	"	A. Mycock
"	T. W. Buxton	"	T. Riley
"	Robert W. Critchlow	"	Mrs. G. Sigley
"	W. E. Dawson	"	P. Smith
"	J. L. Findlow	"	G. V. Stanway
"	F. H. Gordon	"	J. G. Stubbs
"	J. Harrison	"	E. Titterton

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

H. KELSO WATSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector:

D. K. PEDLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Food Inspector

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

K. C. BEETHAM (Resigned July, 1954)

Clerk

MISS B. J. WOOLRIDGE

REPORT

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72,623 acres
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,029
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63,720
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£248/11/9
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,950
Number of persons per acre	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.234

INDUSTRIES

The main occupations of the inhabitants are farming and mining, but a substantial number of persons are employed in the silk mills in Leek, and in the quarries on the Derbyshire border.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	133	106	239
Illegitimate	2	7	9
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	135	113	248

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population—14.6

Stillbirths	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—
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	4	4	8

Rate per 1,000 of the population—4.7

Deaths (all ages)	M	F	TOTAL
	101	85	186

Death rate per 1,000 of the population—10.97

Deaths of Infants (Under 1 year)	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	9	2	11
Illegitimate	—	—	—
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	9	2	11

Death rate per 1,000 live births—44.35

TUBERCULOSIS

The table below shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, and figures for the seven preceding years are given for comparison purposes.

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Total (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1954	111	88	199	30	32	62	141	120	261
1953	107	87	194	29	31	60	136	118	254
1952	106	80	186	27	30	57	133	110	243
1951	102	77	179	27	29	56	129	106	235
1950	99	74	173	31	30	61	130	104	234
1949	96	71	167	31	30	61	127	101	228
1948	78	66	144	31	29	60	109	95	204
1947	69	68	137	29	28	57	98	96	194

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The figures below show the Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1954, in comparison to those of the three preceding years:

	1954	1953	1952	1951
Measles	180	54	254	102
Whooping Cough	114	35	39	30
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	10	4	8	12
Scarlet Fever	16	18	15	11
Erysipelas	5	2	-	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	2	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	1
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-
Pneum. Meningitis	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	1	3	-
Total Cases	327	114	311	207

Incidence of Infectious Diseases

Parishes	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Dysentery
Alstonefield	15		1		1	
Bagnall	1	2		2		
Bradnop	1			1		
Butterton						
Endon and Stanley	7	2	2		1	
Fawfieldhead	14	2				
Grindan				1		
Heothylee	12		1			
Heatan	12	8	1		2	
Hollinsclough	2					
Horton	17	2	2	3		
Ilam			1			
Leekfrith	13	16		1		
Longnor	32					
Longsdon	5					
Norton-in-the-Moors	22	31	1	4	1	
Onecote	1					
Quarnford	8			1		
Rushton		7		3		
Sheen	6					
Tittesworth	9		1			2
Warslow and Elkstones		36				
Wetton	3	8				
Total	180	114	10	16	5	2
Months of Occurrence						
January	15	37	1			
February	5	8		2	1	
March	33	16	1	5	1	
April	50	14	3			
May	33	11	2		1	2
June	20	9		1		
July	10			2		
August	3		1	1		
September		5				
October		1			1	
November	6	3		4	1	
December	5	10	2	1		
Total	180	114	10	16	5	2

Age Incidence of Infectious Diseases

AGE GROUP	Measles		Whooping Cough		Pneumonia		Scarlet Fever		Erysipelas		Dysentery	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 Year
1—5 Years
6—10 Years
11—15 Years
16—20 Years
21—30 Years
31—50 Years
51—70 Years
Over 70 Years
TOTAL	93	87	49	65	7	3	3	13	3	2	2	2
TOTAL — Male and Female	180	...	114	...	10	...	16	...	5	...	2	...

Causes of Death in Leek Rural District 1954

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	1
Tuberculosis, Other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
Other malignant lymphatic neoplasms	8	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	21
Coronary disease, angina	10	4
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3
Other heart disease	20	25
Other circulatory disease	3	1
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	2	1
Bronchitis	4	1
Other disease of respiratory system	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	10
Motor Vehicle accidents	3	—
All other accidents	2	2
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
Total -- all causes	101	85

Sanitary inspection of the Area —

Summary of Visits

HOUSING:

(a) Inspection for defects	107
(b) Council Houses	52
(c) Council House applicants	181
(d) Moveable dwellings	14
(e) Blackshaw Moar Camp	35
(f) Hausing Inspections	172
(g) Improvement Grant applicants	67
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	628

GENERAL:

Inspection of premises for nuisances	84
Food premises	63
Slaughterhouses and knackers' yard	136
Drainage inspections	136
Proposed drainage and conversions	53
Sewage disposal works	37
Water supplies—general	34
Samples of water taken	44
Eastern area water scheme	17
Refuse and nightsoil collection and disposal	67
Infectious diseases	18
Fumigations	16
Rodent control	32
Factories	10
Petroleum stores	16
Miscellaneous	99
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	1790

NOTICES SERVED

1.	Informal Notices	136
	Statutory Notices	11
2.	(a) Number of Nuisances Remedied ...	69
	(b) Number of defective dwellings rendered fit following service of Statutory and Informal notices ...	74

Water Supplies

MAIN SUPPLIES

The main supplies in the area are covered as follows:

Leek Rural District Council

Parishes of Endon and Stanley (part), Horton and Longsdon. (The supply is from the Leek U.D.C. borehole at Pool End).

Small village schemes are in existence at Longnor, Grindon and Hollinsclough.

Staffordshire Potteries Water Board

Parishes of Baginall, Endon and Stanley (part), Longsdon and Norton-in-the-Maars.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The various water supplies in the area have been generally satisfactory in quantity which can hardly be surprising in view of the exceptional rainfall that occurred.

The quality of a large number of these supplies, however, varied considerably, and, no doubt, the main cause of the deterioration in quality was due to the heavy rainfall causing a quick run-off from the springs, bringing surface pollution into the supplies.

As indicated in the table below, the proportion of unfit samples appears to be high, but once again this is largely due to the fact that the majority of samples taken were from doubtful sources, or where new sources were proposed to be used.

Source	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Analysis		
	No. of Samples Taken	Fit	Unfit	No. of Samples Taken	Fit	Unfit
Well	3	1	2	3	2	1
Spring	19	3	16	14	7	7
Stream	2	—	2	2	—	2
Borehole	1	1	—	—	—	—
Total	25	5	20	19	9	10

In all applicable cases, copies of the Laboratories reports are forwarded to the persons concerned, and advice given as to the best method to be adopted with the supply.

In three cases, chemical analysis revealed plumbo-solvent action and in two of these cases the supply was not used. In the third case the necessary advice was given to the consumer.

Horton, Longsdon and Rudyard Water Scheme

The final works to the Longsdon water tower were carried out during the year and the tower was brought into service.

Applications or connections to the scheme have been very disappointingly few in number and by the 31st December the total connections amounted to only 105.

EASTERN PARISHES WATER SUPPLY, SECTION " A " PART I

The scheme to supply the Parishes of Ilam, Alstonefield and Wetton was commenced in October, and main-laying was started from the point on the Ashbourne R.D.C. main from which the supply is to be taken.

It is anticipated that the scheme will be in operation early in 1956.

Drainage and Sewerage

There were no extensions to the sewers or sewage works carried out during the year.

A number of applications were received from owners for contributions towards the cost of converting pail-closets to W.C.'s and in each case a contribution was made in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936. It is anticipated that many further applications will be forthcoming and it is a source of satisfaction to the Department to see the abolition of such primitive closet accommodation in the growing and built-up areas where sewers have been provided and are so near at hand.

Public sewers are available in the parishes of Endon and Stonley and Norton-in-the-Moors, and three sewage disposal works are situated at Baddeley Green, Endon and Norton Green. There are also some antiquated forms of drainage in some of the villages which because of their age and construction, are a constant source of worry and nuisance.

The three sewage works are sadly overloaded and their reconstruction and extension is necessary. Instructions have been given to your Engineers to make preparations for this together with sewage schemes for Brown Edge and Light Oaks, and during the year a Public Inquiry was held. It is hoped that the schemes will bear fruition during the next twelve months.

Your foreman and the staff at the Sewage Works have done well to cope with the over-loaded conditions.

Refuse, Nightsoil and Salvage Collection

The collection of refuse, nightsoil and salvage is carried out by direct labour in every parish.

Four vehicles manned by ten men cover the district as follows:

- AREA 1. Refuse Collection (2 vehicles) — Parishes of Bognall, Endon and Stonley, Horton, Longsdon and Norton-in-the-Moors.
- AREA 2. Nightsoil Collection (1 vehicle) — Parish of Bagnall, Endon and Stonley, Horton, Longsdon and Norton-in-the-Moors.
- AREA 3. Refuse and Nightsoil Collection (1 vehicle) — Parishes of Alstonefield, Brodhop, Butterton, Fowfieldhead, Grindon, Heathlyce, Heaton, Hollinsclough, Ilom, Leek-frith, Longnor, Onecote, Quarnford, Rushton, Sheen, Tittesworth, Worslow & Elksstones and Wetton.

TIPS

There are five tips serving the area and are situated at Boreleg Hill near Longnor, Alstonefield, Wetton, Rudyord and Brown Edge.

The provision of further tips to eliminate travelling and much time loss is constantly being borne in mind.

SUMMARY OF ROUNDS

	Dwelling houses	Other premises	Mileage
AREA 1. (a)	1449	44	234
(b)	1342	56	241
AREA 2.	853	2	141
AREA 3.	898	50	430
Total	4,542	152	1,046

HOUSING

New Houses Erected During the Year

(a) By Local Authority	Boddeley Green site	...	...	...	4
	Grindon site	...	...	...	6
	Ilom site	...	...	...	4
	Rudyord site	...	...	...	4
	Worslow site	...	...	...	8
(b) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	74
					—
					100

Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	277
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	279
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	172
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	172
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	129

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	74
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a)	Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936	Nil
(c)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which an undertaking not to use a dwelling for human habitation was accepted (Housing Act, 1936)	Nil

Improvement Grants

Number of applications received during the year	32
Number of Improvement Grants made in respect of:	
(a) Improvements to existing houses	28
(b) Conversion of buildings into living accommodation	2
Number of Improvement Grant applications refused	1
Number of Improvement Grant applications in obedience	1
Number of Improvement Works completed during the year ...	4

It will be observed that only one application of the 32 submitted was refused. This was because that it was considered that the proposed works did not comply with the conditions laid down in the Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

The number of factories on the register is 33, only one of these being of any size. Ten inspections were made during the year and nothing untoward was brought to light.

There is a small number of outworkers whose chief occupations are concerned with the finishing of wearing apparel.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council provides a service of rat disinfestation to residential property and business premises, while the treatment of some of the farms in the area is carried out by the Agricultural Executive Committee under contract.

Several treatments were carried out during the year and in addition the Council's sewage works and refuse tips were serviced from time to time.

Test-baiting of the public sewers revealed negative results.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Forty-two licences were issued for the storage of Petroleum spirit.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

FOOD SHOPS AND PREPARING PREMISES

By-laws as to handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air are in operation in the Council's area. No contraventions of the by-laws have yet been brought to light.

There are 8 premises in the Area registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the manufacture of prepared meats.

Forty-seven shops are registered under the Act for the sale of Ice Cream.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Meat Inspection

Consequent upon the de-control of slaughtering in July, the Council licensed six private slaughterhouses. A licence is also in operation in respect of a Knackers Yard. Fifty-one men were licensed to stun and slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 '54.

Despite the fact that the department was without the services of an Additional Sanitary Inspector from July, it is satisfying to report that a 100 per cent. meat inspection service was carried out, 412 visits being made to the slaughterhouses. On occasions it was necessary to make two visits to the same slaughterhouses in the same day and consequently the time involved in meat inspection necessitated other work to fall into arrears.

Details as to carcasses inspected and condemnations made are as follows:

Carcases Inspected	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lombs	Pigs
2873	459	291	1599	524
Condemnations				
All diseases except Tuberculosis whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	90	—	118	2
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	19.6	—	7.4	.38
Tuberculosis only whole carcase condemned	5	—	—	1
Carcases of which same part or organ was condemned ...	84	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	19.3	—	—	.19

WEIGHT OF OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

	lbs.
Polish Carp	176
Tinned Tongue	12
Sausages	12
	<hr/>
	200

MILK SUPPLY

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS AND THE SPECIAL DESIGNATION REGULATIONS

(1)	(a)	No. of Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	19
	(b)	No. of Dairies (other than Dairy Farms)	...	...	...	...	...	5
(2)		No. of licences issued to sell -						
	(a)	Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	...	7
	(b)	Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	14
	(c)	Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	9

H. KELSO WATSON

Medical Officer of Health.

D. K. PEDLEY

Sanitary Inspector.

